



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification

Department of State
TELEGRAM

CONTROL: 3147

DATE: May 13, 1970
1030

INDICATE:

☐ COLLECT

☐ CHARGE TO

DISTRIBUTION

CHARGE
AIDE
MINECON
POL/R
ECON
DAO 3
MILGR 2
SCI
USIS
FILES
POL

A/DOM
CHRON

ACTION: SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4744

INFO: AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 6037

RIO DE JANEIRO 3147

REF: RIO 3070; RIO 3122; BRASILIA 138; STATE 071085

SUBJECT: GOB NOTE ON TORTURE

SEEMS TO SIGNIFICANT

1. STATEMENT/REPRESENTS A/MAJOR SHIFT IN ATTITUDE

GOB WHICH PREVIOUSLY HAD SUMMARILY REJECTED ALL OVERTURES,

DIPLOMATIC AND PUBLIC, TO CLARIFY ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE

IN BRAZIL. FURTHER, PRESIDENT MEDICI HAS PLACED

AUTHORITY, INTEGRITY AND CREDIBILITY OF HIS OFFICE ON

THE LINE. STATEMENT LOSES SOME OF ITS CREDIBILITY BY

DENYING TORTURE EVEN EXISTED. POLEMIC NATURE OF STATEMENT

UNDOUBTEDLY REFLECTS THE POLITICAL DIFFICULTY AND OUT-

RIGHT OPPOSITION THAT MEDICI FACED, BUT SHOULD NOT

CHANGED

OBSCURER CENTRAL FACT--PRESIDENT HAS PUBLICLY/REVERSED

PREVIOUS GOB POSITION OF REMAINING X SILENT IN FACE OF

CHARGES IT WAS CONDONING TORTURE. AS COL. MANSO NETO

DRAFTED BY:

A/DCM:WAEllis:cas

DRAFTING DATE

5-13-70

TEL. EXT.

416

APPROVED BY:

William A. Ellis, Charge

CLEARANCES:

POL:REJohnson (draft)

POL:SEBurton (Draft)

A/DOM:RJBallantyne ~~XXXXXX~~ (Subs)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification

Department of State
TELEGRAM

INDICATE:

- ☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

M -2-

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:

TOLD LOW, (BRASILIA 138) PRESIDENT AND GOVERNMENT ARE
NOW ON RECORD PUBLICLY CONDEMNING TORTURE AND ITS USE
AGAINST POLITICAL OPPONENTS.

2. WE HAVE STRONG REASON TO BELIEVE THAT STATEMENT
WAS NOT ONLY A RESPONSE TO INTERNATIONAL CRITISM BUT
ALSO ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH U.S., WHICH HAVE
SUNK TO LOW EBB. SIMILARLY, WE THINK TIMING OF STATEMENT
WAS RESULT OF THOROUGH EXPLANATIONS OF PROBLEM RECENTLY
MADE BY U.S. OFFICIALS AT A HIGH LEVEL. THIS WAS NOT
AN EASY DECISION FOR PRESIDENT TO MAKE IN FACE OF GROW-
ING ANNOYANCE IF NOT OUTRIGHT HOSTILITY TO U.S. WITHIN
BRAZILIAN MILITARY CIRCLES. THIS ANNOYANCE RESULTS/LARGELY
FROM
OUR UNWILLINGNESS TO ~~PROVIDE~~ MILITARY HARDWARE AND FROM
OUR LACK OF UNDERSTANDING (IN THEIR EYES) OF BRAZIL'S
INTERNAL SECURITY PROBLEMS. VERY EXISTENCE OF SUCH
IMPORTANCE
STATEMENT IS REAFFIRMATION OF ~~IMPORTANCE~~ OF U.S./BRA-

DRAFTED BY:

DRAFTING DATE

TEL. EXT.

APPROVED BY:

CLEARANCES:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification

Department of State
TELEGRAM

INDICATE:

☐ COLLECT

☐ CHARGE TO

-3-

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:

ZILIAN RELATIONS IN EYES OF GOB.

3. WE ARE NOW PRESENTED WITH OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN
TO REVERSE THE DETERIORATING TREND IN OUR RELATIONS
EVERYTHING
WITH BRAZIL. WE HAVE ~~EVERYTHING~~ TO GAIN AND NOTHING
TO LOSE BY ASSUMING SINCERITY OF PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT.

WE RECOMMEND FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

a. USG SHOULD TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY WITH OFFICIALS
IN BRAZIL, BRAZILIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND DO-
MESTIC AND FOREIGN PRESS, TO EXPRESS OUR SATISFACTION
SKEPTICAL
WITH GOB STATEMENT. WE SHOULD AVOID ~~SKETCHY~~ COMMENTS
(UNTIL SUBSEQUENT EVENTS PROVE US WRONG).

b. ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISTS TO TAKE
INVITATION VERIFY
ADVANTAGE OF GOB'S IMPLIED VISIT TO ~~VERIFY~~ PRESENT
SITUATION. HOPEFULLY, RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISTS CAN WEDGE
DOOR OPEN WITHOUT CHALLENGING PRESIDENT'S SINCERITY.

c. WE SHOULD APPROVE THE \$15 MILLION PENDING

DRAFTED BY:

DRAFTING DATE

TEL. EXT.

APPROVED BY:

CLEARANCES:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification

Department of State
TELEGRAM

INDICATE:

☐ COLLECT

☐ CHARGE TO

-4-

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:

FMS PACKAGE WHICH HAS BECOME SERIOUS SOURCE OF IRRITATION. WE SHOULD ALSO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN EARLY APPROVAL OF FY70 FMS.

d. WE SHOULD ASSUME THE MOST FORTHCOMING POSITION POSSIBLE ON TRADE MATTERS, E.G., TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS, IA-ECOSOC MEETINGS, AND SOLUBLE COFFEE.

e. WE SHOULD AVOID FUTURE DECISIONS ON AID LEVELS WHICH CONNOTE POLITICAL DISAPPROVAL. IN THIS CONTEXT, TIMING OF DECISION ON FY70 PROGRAM LOAN WAS MOST UNFORTUNATE--EMBASSY RECEIVED OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ALMOST EXACTLY AT TIME OF RELEASE OF GOB STATEMENT.

4. ALTHOUGH ONLY TIME AND FUTURE EVENTS CAN VERIFY THE SINCERITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF PRESIDENT'S DECISION, WE BELIEVE THAT IF WE HANDLE SITUATION SKILLFULLY WE MAY BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE COURSE OF EVENTS AND CAPITALIZE ON A SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITY.

ELLIS

DRAFTED BY:

DRAFTING DATE

TEL. EXT.

APPROVED BY:

CLEARANCES:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification